

[Police staff confidence hits new low](#)

22 Mar 2017



Police officer confidence throughout Scotland has hit a new low, an internal survey conducted by Police Scotland has revealed.

The shocking statistics show that just one in 10 police officers believe that Police Scotland has a “positive future.”

It was reported this morning that the questionnaire asked all staff their thoughts on the statement: “I feel positive about the future within Police Scotland.”

Results revealed that only 10 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement – while 71 per cent suggested they either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The severe confidence crisis looks set to continue over the next few years with the force facing huge budget pressures on the SNP’s watch.

Scottish Conservative shadow justice secretary Douglas Ross said:

“This survey puts a spotlight on just how little confidence there is within the police for the single force.

“Officers and staff need to have full confidence in Police Scotland if they are to work to the best of their abilities and keep Scotland’s communities safe.

“It’s extremely worrying that almost four years on from the SNP centralising our police forces, morale within the organisation remains at rock bottom.”

For a copy of The Sun’s exclusive article regarding the survey click here:
<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/756737/shock-stats-reveal-police-morale-has-hit-new-low-as-just-one-in-10-cops-back-the-forces-future/>

[David Hodge’s resignation makes the need for full disclosure from the](#)

Government more pressing – Teresa Pearce

Teresa

Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, commenting on the news that Surrey

County Council Leader David Hodge is standing down as the Local Government Association's Conservative group leader, said:

“It

appears that the row around the Tory sweetheart deal for Surrey Council has claimed a victim with the resignation of David Hodge as the man responsible for

standing up for all Tory councils. Perhaps that's unsurprising given the accusations he colluded with the Government over a favourable deal not available to other councils.

“This

doesn't put the matter to bed however. Theresa May has failed to come clean about the terms of the deal offered to Surrey, failed to apologise for her Government's misleading suggestion that there had been no such deal and would not give the assurance that other local councils will get the same treatment.

“David

Hodge's resignation makes the need for full disclosure from the Government more

pressing. What we need from the Tories is a long term sustainable plan for funding social care, rather than cosy deals for Tories councils.”

Jonathan Ashworth responds to news that three more trusts have been put into financial special measures

Jonathan

Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on news that three more trusts have been put into financial special measures by NHS Improvement, said:

“The

Government's inept mismanagement of the NHS is pushing hospital finances to the

brink. NHS Providers have already warned this week that delivering services

within the current financial settlement is “mission impossible”. The news today that another three hospital trusts have been forced into financial special measures just illustrates the deepening financial challenge facing the health service.

“Theresa

May can’t keep on forcing hospitals to choose between balancing the books and providing safe patient care. By underfunding the NHS for so long, the Prime Minister is putting patients at risk. The Government needs to set out a long-term, sustainable financial settlement for the NHS which allows hospitals to provide the top quality health services which Britain’s patients expect.”

[HRH The Duchess of Cornwall joins 100 Squadron Celebrations](#)

Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, Honorary Air Commodore of RAF Leeming joined in with centenary celebrations for 100 Sqn.

The

Duchess joined Squadron and Station personnel and families to watch a drill display by the renowned Queen’s Colour Squadron, followed by a flypast of 100 Squadron’s distinctive black Hawk T1A jets.



She

said: “I’m honoured to be here on this historic occasion to celebrate the Centenary of 100 Squadron. When I presented their new Standard to them in 2010,

who would have known that this generation of pilots would be conducting operations in the skies above Syria and Iraq, in the most intense and sustained

air operation that the RAF has conducted in the last 25 years?

“One

this very special occasion we honour the heroism, and valour of our predecessors. But let’s not forget that as today marks the passing of the baton

to the new generation of Airmen, the next chapter of this Squadron is yet to be written.”



The

Duchess was then invited to meet with personnel and families from across RAF Leeming, as well as special guests including 100 Squadron association veterans.

For Wing Commander Andy Wright, Officer Commanding 100 Squadron, it was a personally special day. He said: "It's been a real honour to have the Duchess

of Cornwall with us today – everyone has been walking around with a smile on their face. Before I arrived here, I knew I would be lucky enough to be here for this day. As I was writing my speech for the dinner I researched the Squadron history and there has been so much – on this day in 1917 the Squadron

was days away from going to France to take on the Red Baron, for example.

"100 Sqn

has a really rich history, but we are also very proud of our current role as the RAF's sole aggressor unit, and carrying the baton into the future."



The first Royal Flying Corps squadron to be formed specifically for night bombing, Number 100 Squadron formed at Hingham, Norfolk

on 23 February 1917. It continued its bombing role through World War II, operating Lancasters from RAF Grimsby. Now

-serving as the RAF's sole Aggressor Squadron '*The Ton*' delivers a huge range of operational training, including

support to the Typhoon force and JTAC serials for the British Army.

In November

2010, 100 Squadron received a new Squadron Standard from Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall.

Editor: MCO RAF Leeming

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[End of an era for RAF Lossiemouth Tornados](#)

End of an era for RAF Lossiemouth Tornados

XV(Reserve) Squadron, the Tornado Operational Conversion Unit, completed its final formal flying on Friday 17 March 2017. The disbandment of the Squadron, after 102 years' of service, on Friday 31 March 2017 will see the end of the Tornado GR4 era at RAF Lossiemouth.



To mark the end of this period in the Station's history, Tornados from XV(Reserve) Squadron carried out a final sortie that included flying by Aberdeen and Leuchars airfields and Tain Air Weapons Range. These sites have all been instrumental in the training of aircrew at RAF Lossiemouth to operate the Tornado. The aircraft returned to RAF Lossiemouth in the early afternoon and carried out a series of flypasts over the Station.

The Tornado Weapons Conversion Unit was based at RAF Honington in Suffolk when it received the XV (Reserve) Squadron title in 1992. It moved to RAF Lossiemouth in November 1993 and then with the closure of the Tri-national Tornado Training Establishment in March 1999 XV (Reserve) Squadron assumed responsibility for the training of all of the RAF's Tornado GR4 pilots and Weapon Systems Operators in both initial training on the aircraft and in post-graduate courses. Over the past 24 years the Squadron has been the life-blood of the front line ensuring the squadrons were provided with combat capable aircrew. The final ab-initio pilot finished his training at the end of January, and the last refresher pilot, returning from a

tour instructing at RAF Valley, graduated at the end of February.



Whilst the Tornado Operational Conversion Unit will cease from 31 March, the RAF will continue to utilise the Tornado GR4 until it is finally withdrawn from service in 2019. RAF Marham in Norfolk is the base of the RAF's front line Tornado squadrons from where aircraft and personnel are deployed to support current operations.

Wing Commander Paul Froome is the Officer Commanding of XV(Reserve) Squadron, and took part in the flypast. He said:

"The disbandment of XV(Reserve) Squadron is a milestone in the drawdown of the Tornado fleet, but I can say hand on heart that every member of the Squadron, past and present, has delivered an exceptional level of service and commitment to the Tornado fleet and the RAF."



Three frontline Tornado squadrons have been based at RAF Lossiemouth since the early 1990s:

12 (Bomber) Squadron was already based at RAF Lossiemouth with the Buccaneer when it was re-equipped with the Tornado GR1B in October 1993 in the Maritime Strike role. The Squadron was disbanded at RAF Lossiemouth on 31 Mar 2014, however it was resurrected on 12 Jan 2015 at RAF Marham.

14 Squadron was based at RAF Bruggen with the Tornado GR1 before returning to the UK and was based at RAF Lossiemouth from 1 Jan 2001. The Squadron was disbanded on 1 Jun 2011. The number plate was passed to a new ISTAR unit which had been operating as part of V(Army Co-operation) Squadron at RAF Waddington.

617 Squadron was equipped with the Tornado GR1 at RAF Marham when it relocated to RAF Lossiemouth in May 1994. It was at this point that it adopted a Maritime Strike role as well as its overland strike role. The Squadron was disbanded in March 2014, however it has since been reformed and is re-equipping with the F-35 Lightning II.

Each of these squadrons deployed personnel and aircraft to Operations
TELIC, HERRICK and ELLAMY where the Tornado GR4 exploited its range and
payload
in the Close Air Support and Interdiction roles.



RAF Lossiemouth will maintain the provision of
Quick Reaction Alert (Interceptor) North, or QRA as it is commonly called,
as
its primary role. The
strategically important position of the Station on the northern Scottish
coastline makes it an ideal location to maintain aircraft and crews on high
alert, in order
to scramble and intercept unidentified aircraft approaching UK airspace. This
is the basis of QRA and is a duty that
has been maintained by the Royal Air Force on a 24/7 basis for decades. The
Station will also see growth in the near
future as a fourth Typhoon squadron is formed here and 9 P8 Poseidon
Maritime
Patrol Aircraft are based here.

Editor: Flt Lt Ian Smith

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